

heritage. Highlights of the weekend include an African cultural, fashion, and talent show, and honorary awards dinner, and a posthumous dedication ceremony to distinguished family member Jesse Nathaniel Hunt.

I am especially pleased to commemorate the Winder family of Philadelphia, PA, who are serving as key organizers of this special event. Their dedication to their family and community is most impressive, and will certainly be evident in every activity this weekend.

The Washington-Bonapart family motto is: The family is the strongest institution in the world, and its preservation is essential to a prosperous future for all humankind. I could not agree more. I ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting the Washington-Bonapart family reunion, which I am certain will be a weekend to remember.

RECOGNIZING UNION CITY FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Union City for its participation in National Night Out, 1995. On August 1, residents in this municipality of the 13th District will join fellow Americans across the country to create a night of celebration free from the fear of crime and drugs.

I wish also to pay tribute to the National Association of Town Watch in New Jersey for sponsoring the event. They have succeeded in developing community awareness within many American cities and towns by bringing concerned citizens to the forefront. Community leaders and law enforcement officers are joining them to send the message that crime will not be permitted to threaten our communities and dictate our lives.

I am proud to say I have dedicated citizens in my district creating safe neighborhoods through education and action. On this night Union City residents and law enforcement officers in participating cities will celebrate with a town-wide block party, contests, dances for community youth, concerts at various senior centers, safety demonstrations, and educational forums. These events are a continuation of past efforts whose full benefits will be felt for years to come in my district.

This admirable project is a nation-wide endeavor supported by over 8,000 communities throughout our 50 States. Their continuing aim is to focus America's attention on the alarming crime rates and the unacceptable level of drug abuse which has affected every community in our Nation. Police-citizen partnerships created by the efforts of these organizations have promoted cooperative crime prevention programs allowing Americans to come from behind their locked doors and join their neighbors in the fight for our Nation's safety.

The "12th Annual National Night Out" comes at a time when the leaders of our Nation are debating the appropriate methods of crime prevention here, in the Nation's Capital. But in Union City and in other communities around our great Nation, the people are taking a stand, defending their streets, their homes, and their families.

Union City officials are to be commended not only for their participation in National Night Out 1995 but also for their concern and their efforts. Their fight for safer communities gives me hope that America can build a crime and drug-free Nation for our children. I salute them today, thank them for their past efforts, and wish them luck in their future crime-fighting endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD CHARLES BEDDINGFIELD, SR.

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the sorrow of the people of Decatur and the 19th District at the passing of Mr. Edward C. Beddingfield. Ed's passing is a great loss to all that knew him, and the community he devoted his life to helping.

Ed worked for the Pontiac Division of General Motors for 11 years, and dreamed of one day owning his own automobile business. In 1989, Mr. Beddingfield's dream came true when he purchased a Buick dealership in Decatur, IL, and with much ambition and hard work, Edward turned his dealership into a thriving and successful business.

Mr. Speaker, Ed was involved in many things to help make his community a better place to work and live. He was a Millikin University Trustee, a Decatur sanitary district commissioner, and a pillar of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People. He also served as president of Webster-Cantrell Hall's board of directors and on the boards of the First National Bank and the Metro Decatur Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he touched the lives of many children throughout central Illinois through his work with the Y.M.C.A., the Boys Club & Girls Club, and the Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp.'s summer jobs program.

Mr. Ed Beddingfield was a true example of a public servant. Mr. Speaker, Ed Beddingfield will not be forgotten. His everlasting love, commitment, and dedication serves as a living monument to his family, friends, and neighbors. I want to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to all the people that knew and loved this fine man.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL CHOICE IN TELEVISION ACT OF 1995

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Representatives JIM MORAN, DAN BURTON, JOHN SPRATT, and I, along with a long list of bipartisan cosponsors from every region of the United States, are introducing the Parental Choice in Television Act of 1995.

We are introducing this bill with the intention of offering it as an amendment when the telecommunications bill comes to the House floor in July.

It is supported by a broad coalition of groups from the PTA to the AMA.

It is supported by 90 percent of the American public.

In short, its time has come.

In my view, there is no more compelling governmental interest in the United States today than providing families a healthy, safe environment in which to raise healthy, productive children.

The fact is that television is one of the most important influences on our children's lives. We might wish it were different, but that won't bring us back to the 1950's when children watched relatively little TV. Today they watch 4 to 7 hours every day. "Electronic teacher" for many children, but what it teaches to young children is scary. The average American child has seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence by the time he or she leaves elementary school.

Parents know what's going on. I have held six hearings over the last 2 years on the subject of children and televised violence. In every hearing I have heard both compelling testimony about the harmful effects of negative television on young children, and about the efforts of industry to reduce gratuitous violence. But parents don't care whether the violence is gratuitous or not. When you have young children in your home, you want to reduce all violence to a minimum.

That's why parents are not impressed with the temporary promises of broadcast executives to do better. Parents know that the good deeds of one are quickly undermined by the bad deeds of another.

The pattern is familiar. Parents plea for help in coping with the sheer volume and escalating graphics of TV violence and sexual material. Congress expresses concern. The industry screams "first amendment". The press says they're both right, calling on Congress to hold off and calling on industry to tone things down.

Meanwhile, parents get no help.

Until parents actually have the power to manage their own TV sets using blocking technology, parents will remain dependent on the values and programming choices of executives in Los Angeles and New York who, after all, are trying to maximize viewership, not meet the needs of parents.

In 1993, a USA Today survey found that 68 percent of its readers supported mandating the inclusion of V-chip technology in new TV sets. By 1996, a similar survey found that this number had risen to 90 percent.

Clearly the public is clamoring for solutions which make it easier to control their own TV sets.

That is why we in the House intend to move forward with the V-Chip.

We will give the industry a year to develop a ratings system and activate blocking technology on a voluntary basis, but if they fail to act, then the legislation will require the FCC to:

First, form an advisory committee, including parents and industry, to develop a ratings system to give parents advance warning of material that might be harmful to children;

Second, prescribe rules for transmitting those ratings to TV receivers, and

Third, require TV set manufacturers to include blocking technology in new TV sets so that parents can block programs that are rated, or block programs by time or by program.